

Higher Ed.

Major Initiatives and Accomplishments

September 29, 2003 DRAFT

Major themes:

- We have invested more.
- Students have improved access.
- Technology and science have been our focus.
- Schools are more efficient and accountable.

1. We have invested more.

a. Higher ed. funding

- Higher education funding for the Utah System of Higher Education and Utah Education Network increased 73.4 percent from \$515 million in 1994 to \$894 million for 2004.
- As a percentage of all appropriations, appropriations to USHE/UEN increased from 13.3 percent in 1994 to 13.4 percent for 2004.

b. Scholarships

- Awarded over 2,200 Centennial Scholarships to Utah students.
- Awarded almost 400 New Century Scholarships to Utah students.

2. Students have improved access.

- Since 1992 enrollments have increased by over 50 percent to more than 121,000 student FTEs.
- Technology-delivered instruction (on-line courses, broadcast television, etc.) now accounts for 9.2 percent of total enrollments.
- The Utah Electronic College offers 650 electronic courses, serving all 29 Utah counties.
- Federal and state student aid has increased from \$59 million in 1994 to over \$94 million through 2002.
- Loan guarantee volume has increased from \$157 million in 1994 to \$276 million in 2003.
- Key initiatives
 - Utah Education Network (UEN)

- Utah Electronic College (UEC)
- Utah College of Applied Technology (UCAT) trains over 15,000 high-school students and 45,000 adults each year.
- Development of Associate Degree in Applied Technology
 - Development of Bachelors Applied Technology (BAT) Degree, offered at Weber State University and Utah Valley State College.
- Centennial Scholarships
- Western Governors University
 - Established with 19 other states.
 - More than 1500 students and 15 percent enrollment growth per month.
 - Only U.S. university accredited by four regional commissions to offer competency-measured degrees.
 - Offers 12 bachelors degree programs and six masters degree programs

3. Technology and Science have been our focus.

- The state experienced a 35% increase in the number of engineering, math, and computer science graduates since 2001. This is part of Governor Leavitt's initiative to double the number of engineering, math, and computer science students by 2005.
- Over \$86 million in state and private funds for new and remodeled engineering buildings/classrooms at USU and UofU.

4. Schools are more efficient and accountable.

- Master Plan 2000 refocused higher education initiatives and programs on technology and science, refined institutional missions, and increased accountability measures.
 - 2002 and 2003 updates of the Master Plan focused on student success, benchmarking best practices for employee benefits, and developing an accountability report card for institutions and the system as a whole.
 - Development of UtahMentor, a web-based advising and information tool for students and parents.

Selected higher education-focused Initiatives

(These initiatives are from state of the state addresses, 1993—2003.)

One-half of the initiatives introduced in the governor's state of the state addresses have had an education focus. In all, 39 initiatives (both public and higher ed.) aimed at improving the quality of Utah's current and future workforce have been launched. Selected higher education examples include the following:

- Master Plan for Secondary Education
- Technology 2000
- Invest \$37 million in Technology 2000
- Regional, virtual university (WGU)
- New higher education master plan
- Centennial Scholarships
- Utah Electronic Community College
- Better appropriations for higher education
- New Century Scholarships
- Teacher incentives for math, science, and technology
- Engineering Initiative
- Pete Suazo Scholarships
- Education funding maintained
- Roads and sales tax
- Water and sales tax & general fund
- Sales tax collection on internet, catalog, telephone sales
- UCAT
- Associate of Applied Technology Degree with or next to the creation of UCAT